



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi

188 East Capitol Street, Suite 500 601-965-4480
Jackson, Mississippi 39201 FTS 490-4480

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2009

DEFENDANT GUILTY OF FORGING FALSE RESIDENT ALIEN CARDS

DUNN LAMPTON, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and MICHAEL A. HOLT, Special Agent-In-Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, New Orleans Office of Investigations, Department of Homeland Security, announced that **NORBERTO SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** of Biloxi pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to forge and possess fraudulent United States resident alien cards for entry into the United States or as evidence of authorized stay or employment. **SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** entered his guilty plea before United States District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr. in federal district court in Gulfport, Mississippi.

SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ was charged in a two-count indictment voted by the Grand Jury in November 2008. The indictment charged **SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** with conspiracy to forge and possess fraudulent resident alien cards and with possessing counterfeit resident alien cards.

According to the indictment, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement informant advised ICE that an individual using a 228 area code number was willing to sell false identity

documents. On October 6, 2008, the informant called the number and arranged a meeting to buy United States resident alien cards and Social Security cards. On or about October 8, 2008, the informant met with **NORBERTO SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** in Gulfport and provided him with photographs and names to be used in preparing five sets of false United States resident alien cards and Social Security cards. Later that same day, **NORBERTO SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** returned with five sets of completed false United States resident alien cards and Social Security cards bearing the names and photographs the informant had provided him. As described in the criminal complaint, **SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** arrived in the vicinity of the meeting location with two other individuals who had false resident alien cards on their persons.

Defendant **NORBERTO SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ** will be sentenced on May 8, 2009. He faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

"Targeting counterfeit document schemes like this is an enforcement priority for ICE," said Michael A. Holt, Special Agent in Charge for ICE investigations in New Orleans. "Those who sell phony documents are putting the security of our communities and even our country at risk. Documents like these

could be exploited by dangerous criminals and even potential terrorists to obscure their identities and cover their tracks."

Assistant United States Attorney Gaines Cleveland is the prosecutor in charge of the case. U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton praised the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement for its diligent work in the investigation of this case.

#